

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, in last month's continuing resolution agreement, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] and President Clinton committed to a balanced budget that "must provide adequate funding for veterans," but NEWT GINGRICH's current budget plan hurts veterans. That budget cuts health coverage for veterans, it increases costs for prescription drugs for veterans, it hikes costs for veterans' home loans, and it even cuts some pension benefits for veterans. That budget provides \$400 million less than what the veterans' health system needs in fiscal year 1996 to provide current quality health care for veterans. Many of NEWT GINGRICH's own Republican Members objected to this cut until they had their arms twisted by their leaders. NEWT GINGRICH should live up to his commitment to a balanced budget that gives veterans what they deserve.

PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS OF H.R. 1020

(Mr. ENSIGN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to express my strong opposition to H.R. 1020, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1995. My colleagues have heard many, many reasons why H.R. 1020 is not a good bill. I have discussed at length how H.R. 1020 would preempt States rights, slash environmental standards, bust the budget agreement by \$4.2 billion, and today I will tell my colleagues how it endangers the rights of private property owners.

H.R. 1020 proposes that thousands of shipments of high level nuclear waste be shipped from the 109 reactors around the country, across 43 States to Nevada. As written, there is no language in H.R. 1020 to protect private property rights. I know that and many of my colleagues and I are strong supporters of private property rights. As this nuclear waste travels across our local communities, there is no protection for private property owners if their property is devalued. A recent case was decided in Santa Fe, NM, that accurately describes the reality of this situation. The New Mexico State Supreme Court ruled that Mr. John Komis, of Santa Fe, NM, be awarded more than \$884,000 for damages resulting from devaluation of his land due to the transportation of radioactive waste past his property. Your constituents, whether in Wichita, KS; Medford, OK; or Charleston, WV, or anywhere along the transportation routes, could suffer from this very same experience.

I intend to offer an amendment to H.R. 1020 to ensure that private property owners be compensated for any property devaluation. While this single amendment could in no way ever correct all the drastic problems with the legislation, it does provide a mechanism to protect the innocent property

owners from erroneous Government action. I urge my colleagues to protect their constituents and support my amendment.

THE SPEAKER SHOULD SUPPORT A BUDGET WHICH REFLECTS AMERICA'S PRIORITIES, NOT HIS OWN

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last month, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] shut down the Government because he did not like his seat on Air Force One. But now he is at it again, and while the President and the Republican leaders of the other body work together to negotiate a budget deal, Speaker GINGRICH can only offer obstruction. Why is the Speaker determined to shut down the Government again?

□ 1030

Was he invited to breakfast at the White House and got only one piece of toast and President Clinton got two? Who knows. What we do know is that the Speaker is using the threat of a Government shutdown to force his budget priorities on the American people.

My colleagues on the other side have said that the polls show that the American people know what is going on. In fact, they do know what the Republicans are doing here, and they do not like it. They oppose a budget that cuts Medicare, education, environmental protection to finance a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

So, Mr. GINGRICH, quit playing games. Give the American people an early Christmas present, a budget which reflects America's priorities, the priorities of the people of this country, not yours.

LINGANORE LANCERS ARE NO. 1

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, there is life outside the Congress.

I rise today to recognize the achievements of Linganore High School—the Lancers—and its three 1995 State championships. This fall, the Linganore girls cross-country team and team member Kristen Ritter won the State Division 2-A team and individual State championships.

Most recently, Linganore's football team won its third State championship in Division 2-A.

It last won the championship in 1991. The Lancers' first State football championship was earned in Division 3-A in 1989. I am very proud that a member of my staff, Jeff Jones, started as the middle-linebacker on that first championship team.

First year Linganore head football coach Bill McIntosh deserves a lot of credit for nurturing these fine young men into a winning team.

The 1995 State championships were a great and difficult goal.

The Lancers set their sights on achieving that goal. Then they went out and made it happen—three times so far this year.

May the example of the 1995 Maryland State Champion Linganore High School girls cross-country team, Kristen Ritter, and the football team inspire those of us in Congress to achieve our goal of a balanced budget in 7 years.

ETHICS COMMITTEE NAILS DOWN BOOK ADVANCE LOOPHOLE

(Mr. POMEROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I think every Member of this body 1 years ago felt embarrassment when we learned that the incoming Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, was about to pocket \$4.5 million under an extraordinarily book deal that would have richly benefited him and the individual seeking to pay him, an individual with substantial stake in the legislation to come before this Congress.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, in a bipartisan, unanimous vote, has voted to make certain that never again will we have a Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, or a Republican or a Democrat ever again try and cash in in this fashion by nailing down the book advance loophole.

I was shocked to learn in this morning's papers, Speaker GINGRICH is trying to delay indefinitely this measure from coming up for a vote in the House, and other Members of the Republican leadership are on board in trying to delay us or stop us from having a vote on this good Government reform.

Think again, Mr. Speaker. Think again, Republican leaders. The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has spoken and we will have a vote, either under your auspices or under a discharge petition.

ETHICS COMMITTEE'S REFORM STALLED

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has unanimously voted to close the loophole on outside income limitations for Members of Congress from book royalties. Now the Speaker and the majority leader and the Committee on Rules chair all inform us that there will be a stall in that reform. I think that is a very sad day.

I wrote the code of ethics under which 18 Members of this House have

been disciplined, and at that time, at the request of people of the highest integrity, we made an exception for book royalties because we wanted to make room for legitimate exchange of ideas, and we had in mind books by people such as Mo Udall, Dick Bolling, and John Anderson. But we never dreamed that that exception would be used by any Member to cash in big on his public fame.

The Speaker's book deal has done such incredible damage to the public confidence in this House by making it appear that all of us are money grubbers, that that rule must be changed to eliminate it, and it must be changed now.

NO BUDGET, NO CONGRESSIONAL PAY

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans failed to pass the necessary appropriations bills, they precipitated a crisis last month which led to the longest Government shutdown in our Nation's history. The Government shutdown cost American taxpayers \$100 million a day because Mr. GINGRICH and the Republican leaders failed to pass a spending bill to keep the Government open. That sort of tragedy should not be repeated, and yet, tomorrow, it may be.

We now have another threat from the Republican leadership to close down the Government again, this time to send home some 300,000 Federal employees and once again leave the American taxpayers holding the bag.

Mr. GINGRICH insists that closing down the Government and sending home these employees is a matter of principle. Let me suggest something to the Speaker. It is a matter of principle if your paycheck is on the line, not if the paychecks of 300,000 Federal employees are on the line.

Mr. GINGRICH, you can put your paycheck on the line by supporting my bill: No budget, no pay. If Congress fails to keep the Government open, Congress does not get paid.

Mr. GINGRICH has killed this bill five times. We have to push forward to make sure that Congress does the responsible thing.

STATES NEED BETTER CONTROL OVER MEDICAID

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, this is what a prominent Governor has to say about reforming Medicaid: "If the Federal Government would just release us from its bureaucracy and nonsense, we'd make these programs better for those they serve, and we'd do it for less money."

Any guesses on who said this? It was Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld in a Wall Street Journal article from Monday.

Here's quote from another well-known Governor: "Medicaid mandates have put great stress on State budgets and undermined the States' ability to properly fund education and other important services."

Any guesses on this one? Well, this quote is from a document coauthored by Governor Bill Clinton in 1989.

As Governor, Bill Clinton warned that Medicaid mandates were too burdensome and in need of more State-level control.

Now, as President, Mr. Clinton has the opportunity to take care of that problem, but he has changed his position, and he has vetoed a bill that would have accomplished that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to join us in giving the States better control over our Medicaid system.

WELFARE REFORM MUST NOT PUNISH CHILDREN

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a great deal of inside-the-beltway talk during the welfare reform debate about family caps, block grants, and maintenance of effort.

But I tell you, my friends, we have not heard much about the children. Let me lay out the facts plain and clear.

By shredding the safety net—by ending for the first time in 60 years the Federal guarantee of assistance for poor children—The Gingrich welfare bill will push at least 1.2 million more children into poverty, 1.2 million more children into poverty.

The bill tells children: If you're poor, don't get sick; don't get hungry; don't get cold because we don't think you're important. And, we don't want to guarantee that you have health care; food, and general assistance.

Mr. Speaker, welfare reform is not supposed to be about punishing poor children.

It should be about improving their lives by giving their parents the education, job training, and child care needed to get a job and get off welfare permanently.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on International Relations, Committee on the Judiciary, Commit-

tee on National Security, Committee on Resources, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS]?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce to the House that under rule IX, I plan to offer a privileged resolution and ask for its consideration to be scheduled within 2 days, as are required by the rules, as follows:

Whereas, on November 29, 1995, the House of Representatives considered S. 1060, a bill which had been passed by the Senate on July 25, 1995 to provide for the disclosure of lobbying activities to influence the Federal Government and for other purposes;

Whereas, on such date the House passed the bill without amount, the effect of which was an identical lobbying reform bill passed by both the House and the Senate;

Whereas, as of December 14, 1995, the bill passed by both Chambers has not been enrolled by the Senate and presented to the President in violation of constitutional requirements to so present;

Whereas, an unreasonable delay in the presentation of an enrolled bill to the President affects the integrity of the proceedings of the House of Representatives: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a committee of two Members of the House, one from each major party, to determine whether there has been unreasonable delay in transmitting the enrolled bill, S. 1060, to the President, and such committee shall promptly inform the Senate of the concern of the House of Representatives over the delay in the bill's presentation to the President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Speaker in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days of its being properly noticed. The Chair will announce the Speaker's designation at a later time. In the meantime, a form of the resolution proffered by the gentleman from Texas will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair is not making a determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated by the Speaker for consideration of the resolution.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.